**BOS meeting to discuss future and if we want to encourage younger members. 21 Aug 19:**

Present: Kate, Lesley, Steph, Wendy, Susan, Judy, Hilary, Mary, Liz the younger, Gill M, Gill U.

1. We discussed whether we wanted to encourage younger members. General feeling was that we did for following reasons: It is good to have a mix of ages for diversity, energy (and maybe less women leaving at half time), keeping the strength and sound of voices, and it would be good if BOS was here in 20 years time. Women also said that if we did try to do this we needed to get a reasonable cohort or they would not stay. If we don’t actively try to do anything we are unlikely to change and will get gradually older.

2. How women join – brainstorming possibilities.

a) We currently have 40 women on the register and a waiting list with 6 women on it so we don’t currently have any spaces. We are also committed to make a place for 2 more asylum seeker members. It was suggested that we could close the waiting list now for a year or two so that we had choices in the future – **we didn’t make a decision re this - I think we need to.**

b) Do we want to become bigger? We don’t usually have huge proportion of our membership (40) every week but we do when we are planning a big gig – e.g. at cathedral. BOS has decided in the past that we didn’t want to get any bigger and no strong feeling with we wanted to change this.

c) We could have a pay as you go membership similar to Purple Cats but feeling was similar to above. Kate pointed out this affects what you can sing as different people are there each week.

d) We could have a term attending and a term off to extend possible membership and number of women involved.

e) We could have a pop-up term when we invited women to join us for that term, got really big just for that period, do some sort of performance at the end, and then revert to normal size. This could involve doing different sorts of stuff for one term only.

f) It was suggested that waiting doesn’t suit younger people so much. We talked about making it so that women could join more than once a year e.g. at start of every term, and what difficulties this might cause for Kate, who thought that would be OK.

g) First weeks of term to be tasters instead of end of summer term, so that women could carry straight on if they were interested then. This would have some complications for treasurer to sort out.

3. Other ways of being more inclusive of younger people.

a) We could try to make connections with other singing groups with a younger membership e.g. Neighbourhood Voices and e.g. do some kind of joint performance/workshop/invite them to workshops we organise. We talked about Sheffield Music Academy but their members are under 18 so there are issues with Child Protection/Insurance. **Kate will try to find out about possibility of Neighbourhood Voices.**

b) BOS, although we do not have any specific politics, does political stuff which is important to many of us e.g. busking for ASSIST, projected drastic plastic singing etc. There may be younger people who would like to get involved with these things or Extinction Rebellion choir which some of BOS are involved in, which could cross-pollinate.

4. Website and how we present ourselves

a) Website. We agreed that this needs to be updated. Agreed to spend some money on this and get quotes. **Mary Kate and Gill suggested possible people to get quotes from/people who might help us get photos/recordings.** ( Sorry I think there may have been someone else who was doing this but haven’t written it down).We would need more material, such as photos, videos etc which people in BOS may already have some of. **Anyone in BOS** with appropriate stuff to be asked to send it to Liz Koe.

Agreed we could re-write description of BOS for website. We had started meeting with things that we valued about BOS that are unique – **Judy to try to produce something from this that explains a bit more of what BOS is like**

b) Talked about Facebook, tweeting, Instagram etc but agreed not to progress these as would be complicated re updating.

c) We could think about if members of BOS can think about talking to younger people about it, as this will affect who might get interested. If we are not aware of this we will be more likely to get more women our own age.

d) What we sing. There was a suggestion that we might sing more pop songs or other genres but most people didn’t want to change the mix we do now.

e) We could ask people who joined BOS and then did not stay, why – not to apply pressure but just for information about how we come across.